

Minutes of a meeting of the Association’s Marine eCMID Committee held on 16 March 2026 from 12:30 GMT via videoconference

1 Competition law compliance policy

The updated IMCA Competition Law Compliance Policy, which had been circulated with the meeting agenda, was drawn to the attention of all present. It is also available in the slide deck and on the IMCA website.

2 Welcome and attendance

2.1 Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed all to the first meeting of 2026, and explained how there would be updates from the Operations Committee and that the COO Jamie Chestnutt was joining to deliver these.

2.2 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were recorded, with the latest meeting attendance now as follows:

Name	Company	Jun 202	Sep 202	Dec 202	Mar 202
Sujit Viswanathan (Chair)	DNV	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Kerrie Forster (Vice-Chair)	Workboat Association	Part-Time	Attended	Attended	Attended
George Reed	BP	Attended	Attended	Apologies	Attended
Bo Kiel Jespersen	Ørsted	Attended	Attended	Attended	Apologies
Jennifer McCaul	Scottish Power	Attended	Substitute	Substitute	Substitute
Kevan Smith	Subsea 7	Apologies	Apologies	Attended	Attended
Vladimir Shuvaev	TechnipFMC	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
BL Taylor-Hamilton	Siemens Gamesa Renewables Energy	Attended	Attended	Apologies	Attended
Benjamin Graff	Fred Olsen	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Emma Watts	SSE	Part-Time	Attended	Apologies	Attended
Giuseppe Bisceglie	Saipem	Attended	Absent	Part-Time	Attended
Mike Schwarz	IIMS/MSA	Attended	Attended	Apologies	Attended
Sharon Holland	IIMS/MSA	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Elle Bryant	IIMS/MSA	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Andrew Corrie	RWE	N/A	Attended	Attended	Attended
Anthony Milligan	Scottish Power	N/A	Attended	Attended	Attended
Darren Law	TechnipFMC	N/A	Attended	Apologies	Attended
Adam Sokol	Baker Marine	N/A	N/A	N/A	Attended

Legend:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Apologies	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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Also present or joining via videoconference were:

Jennifer Evans	IMCA	Secretariat Lead
Adam Hugo	IMCA	Head of IT
Ade Adebajo	IMCA	IT
Richard Purser	IMCA	Marine TA
Jamie Chestnutt	IMCA	IMCA COO

2.3 Committee membership

It was explained to the committee that the membership and committee structure is being reset, which is hope will encourage greater engagement and increase volunteers from different regions.

IMCA Strategic Direction and 2030 Vision: Jamie, IMCA's Chief Operating Officer, presented an overview of IMCA's strategic direction to 2030, outlining the foundational strategy, ongoing projects, committee structure review, people plan, income generation, and operational output review, with input from the board, committee chairs, and members.

- **Strategy Overview:** Jamie explained that IMCA is developing a strategy looking ahead to 2030, focusing on strengthening capabilities, growing where needed, and stopping activities that do not deliver value to members. The strategy is informed by member surveys, board feedback, and discussions with committee and work group chairs.
- **Committee and Governance Review:** A review of IMCA's committee structure is underway, with over 50 committees and working groups currently in place. The review aims to streamline and simplify governance, including membership grades and election processes, to reduce bureaucracy and better support volunteers.
- **People Plan and Next Generation Initiatives:** IMCA has launched a next generation network and is developing a people plan to support training, development, and awards programmes, with over 100 applicants for the steering group. The plan will be presented to the board in the summer.
- **Income Generation and Operational Output:** Jamie highlighted the need to diversify income beyond member fees, exploring digital logbooks, learning management systems, and competency management. An operational output review is assessing all IMCA activities to clarify areas of focus and ensure alignment with member needs.

eCMID Business Case and Future Direction: Jamie initiated a comprehensive discussion with the committee, including Jennifer, Richard, Kerrie, Kevan, Anthony, Sujit, and others, on the value, uptake, and future investment in the eCMID system, presenting three options: continue as is, invest further, or discontinue in favour of OVID, and requested a business case from the committee.

- **Business Case Questions:** Jamie asked the committee to consider what problem eCMID solves, its effectiveness, investment to date, and whether it is as successful as intended. He presented three options: maintain the current approach, invest to improve and increase uptake, or discontinue and support OVID instead.
- **Member and Stakeholder Feedback:** Feedback on eCMID is highly divided among members and the secretariat, with some seeing it as essential for safety and others questioning its value compared to OVID. The discussion highlighted differences in industry requirements, with OVID being mandatory for oil majors and eCMID serving as an entry point for other sectors.
- **Industry Uptake and Challenges:** Participants noted that less than half of contracted vessels use eCMID, and uptake is influenced by industry mandates and client requirements. The committee discussed the impact of parallel inspection regimes, such as G Plus, and the need for IMCA to advocate for eCMID's relevance.
- **Marketing and Communication Needs:** Several members, including Kerrie and Andy, emphasised the need for better internal and external marketing and education about eCMID, both within IMCA and to industry stakeholders, to address misconceptions and increase adoption.
- **Next Steps and Actions:** The committee agreed to gather input from members on the four key questions posed by Jamie, including positives and negatives, and to collate responses for discussion at the next meeting, aiming to develop a robust business case for the future of eCMID.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

3.1 Approval of the minutes

The minutes were agreed and were duly signed as an accurate record by the Chair.

The action items from the previous meeting that are not covered in the agenda were reviewed and updated as necessary.

3.2 Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda

None

4 Status Report

Adam provided an update on the statistics of live reports for both M149 vessels and M189 vessels and the finance status for the scheme.

Adam confirmed a slight increase in use of the analytics hub, with new supplement and risk-based filters added to reports, and announced plans to upgrade the reporting platform and analysis for the next meeting.

Adam highlighted that last year's results were slightly below budget, but current figures are in line with 2024 projections

5 Policy and procedures

Quality Assurance and Training: Andy and others discussed ongoing QA processes, consistency in report scoring, the role of photographs and comments in reports, and the importance of training inspectors to ensure high-quality, consistent outputs. The committee considered the frequency and approach to QA reviews.

Andy reviewed reports from recently accredited AVIs, noting improvements in overall scores since October 2025, with main issues now relating to missing findings, photographs, and disclaimers

Inspection process improvement: Andy suggested revising guidance notes to reduce the expectation for AVIs to make comments on yes-no questions, aiming to streamline inspections and minimise unnecessary repetition.

Sujit encouraged Andy to review and refine the scoring instructions to ensure consistency if another reviewer takes over, aiming to minimise bias and maintain reliable outcomes

Mike discussed the need for an additional text column in inspection reports, highlighting the balance between allowing extra comments and discouraging unnecessary entries

Kerrie raised concerns about consistency in quality control reviews if a new reviewer, takes over, questioning whether clear criteria and resources are in place to ensure uniform scoring

6 Inspection templates

Updates were provided with updates on the development and governance of specialized inspection templates for remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), uncrewed surface vessels (USVs), and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), including accreditation processes and committee responsibilities.

eCMID System Status, Analytics, and Technical Developments: Adam Hugo, Andy, and other committee members provided updates on eCMID system usage, analytics, template updates, technical improvements, and ongoing QA processes, with input from Barrington, Anthony, Adam Sokol, and others.

- **Usage Statistics and Trends:** Adam reported continued growth in small vessel inspections, a slight decline in large vessel inspections, and overall performance in line with previous years. The committee discussed the need for improved communication and platform investment to support further growth.

- **Data Analysis and Integration:** Questions were raised about the nature of new small vessel entries (new builds vs. existing fleet) and the potential to cross-reference with external data sources such as Spinerger to better understand vessel activity and industry trends.
- **Regional Uptake Insights:** Adam provided insights into eCMID uptake in North America, noting that most eCMIDs are conducted for renewables on the US East Coast, with OVID preferred in oil and gas sectors, and highlighted the influence of client requirements and vessel operator preferences.
- **Technical Improvements and Template Updates:** Recent and planned technical developments include improved notification for report anniversaries, enhanced analytics, updates to vessel particulars, and the introduction of new templates for ROV and USV inspections. The committee is reviewing and aligning templates and guidance documents.

7 Online system

Adam provided a run down on the development roadmap for 2026

Launched

- ✓ ROV template – testing in beta site
- ✓ References content – extracts and links (with next template revisions)
- ✓ Operator fleet summary and inspection readiness indicators (particulars)
- ✓ Updated ‘Manage Users’ interface
- ✓ Template editor in-version edits

Planned

- 📅 USV template – being added to beta site for testing
- 📅 Inspection reports – high-risk findings guidance
- 📅 Inspection app – summary guidance, upload checklist enhancement
- 📅 Analytics hub – ‘My access’, ‘Vessel history’, updated supplement filters
- 📅 IMCA administration updates – roles and template editor

8 Inspector accreditation – AVI scheme

- **eCMID AVI Scheme Administration and Mentoring:** Mike, Elly, Sharon, and Anthony reported on the administration of the eCMID Accredited Vessel Inspector (AVI) scheme, including application trends, course delivery, mentoring challenges, digital cards, and ongoing efforts to support and re-engage AVIs.
 - **Application and Course Trends:** The scheme continues to receive a steady flow of applications, averaging 11 per month, with improvements in application quality following the introduction of a guidance video. Courses are well attended, with a mix of new and revalidating AVIs.
 - **Mentoring and Supervised Inspections:** Mentoring new applicants remains a challenge due to concerns about competition and compensation among mentors. The team is exploring ways to formalise mentoring and encourage experienced AVIs to support newcomers.

- **Digital Cards and Automation:** The transition to digital membership cards has been completed, reducing reliance on physical cards and improving efficiency. Efforts are underway to automate certificate issuance and enhance course scheduling to meet revalidation needs.
- **Re-engagement and Communication:** The team is actively following up with course attendees who have not yet applied to become AVIs, aiming to understand their motivations and encourage participation. Newsletters and online events are used to maintain engagement and share updates.

9 Communications and publicity

The 2026 Festivals of Knowledge are due to take place on-line the 13th May and 3rd December.

10 Objectives and workplan

- **Committee Objectives, Governance, and Future Planning:** Jennifer, Sujit, Kerrie, Adam Hugo, and others reviewed the committee's strategic and annual objectives, discussed alignment with IMCA governance changes, and planned to update terms of reference and work plans in response to ongoing reviews and Jamie's feedback.
 - **Objectives Review and Alignment:** The committee reviewed both strategic and annual objectives, clarifying the distinction between terms of reference and yearly goals. Plans were made to update these documents to reflect current activities and align with IMCA's governance review.
 - **Reporting and Communication with the Board:** Progress on objectives and work plans is reported to the IMCA board, with the main objectives shared for oversight. The committee will circulate updated terms of reference and work plans for review ahead of the next meeting.
 - **Internal and External Promotion:** The need for improved internal promotion of eCMID within IMCA committees and better representation at external events was discussed, with actions to enhance awareness and understanding among members and stakeholders.
1. Release International Workboat Code of Practice. – The document will be sent to Workboat Association for release.
 2. Release eCMID ROV & AUV Inspection templates
 3. Crew preparation guidance
 4. Encourage the next generation and promoting the eCMID scheme to the younger professionals.
 5. IIMS & IMCA to work together to help, support and encourage the new generation of AVIs. Propose an inspector recruitment and mentoring initiative to IMCA to address the aging inspector demographic.
 6. Look into the possibility of holding a webinar with the AVIs, where they can “Ask IMCA”

11 Any other business

12 Action summary, next meetings and close

Action	Responsible	Target
Produce a high level statement on budget and profit	Adam	Q2 2026
Produce a summary guide for AVIs	IT & Andy	Development planned 2026
Can a popup be generated before final report is uploaded, to warn if no summary, no findings, & if high findings produced then ensure relevant evidence included	IT	Development planned 2026
Committee Membership Data: Update the committee membership slide to show which organizations are audited members as well as committee members for the next meeting.	Adam	Q2 2026
Findings Communication to Vessels: Investigate the feasibility of sending inspection findings directly to the vessel (e.g., master or vessel manager) upon completion of the inspection, possibly via automated system notification.	IT	Q2 2026
M167 and Inspection Template Review: Circulate the draft of M167 and the vessel inspection templates (M149 and M189) to the committee for review, and set a deadline for feedback to enable publication in Q2 2026.	Jennifer	1 st April
Review of Guidance Document 167 and Vessel Particulars: Review the circulated Guidance Document M167 and inspection templates, provide feedback.	All Committee Members	April 30th
Hybrid Supplement Question Revision: Revise the hybrid supplement section by switching the order of questions 6 and 7, clarifying wording, and addressing the issue of double questions, then update in the next revision.	Jennifer & Kerrie	April 30th
Terms of Reference and Objectives Update: Share the current terms of reference and work plan with the committee for review, and prepare to discuss and potentially update objectives at the next meeting in light of Jamie's presentation and governance review outcomes.	Jennifer	3 rd April
eCMID Business Case Feedback: Collate and submit individual or organisational feedback addressing the four key questions posed by Jamie regarding the eCMID business case, including positives and negatives, by mid-May for discussion at the June meeting.	All Committee Members	15 th May
Vessel Particulars Data Analysis: Review and analyse whether the increase in small vessel inspections is due to new vessels entering the market or existing fleet being added, and report findings at the next meeting. (Adam Hugo)	Adam	Q2 2026
Vessel Particulars Cross-Referencing: Cross-reference eCMID vessel data with Spinergie to gain insights into vessel activities and industry engagement, and report back to the committee.	Adam	Q2 2026
Quality Assurance Scoring Consistency: Review and, if necessary, refine the QA scoring instructions to ensure consistency if a new	Andy	Q2 2026

person takes over the QA process, and report any recommended changes to the committee. (Andy)		
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13 Date and location of next meetings

- 22nd June via Teams
- 21st September Face to Face IMCA London and via Teams
- 14th December via Teams

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Signed as a true record

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Name

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Date